

1B—CRITICAL EMPIRICAL METHODS IN DIALOGUE #1

Understanding Ourselves as Researchers: Critical Reflections on a National Survey

Selinda Berg (University of Windsor); Kristin Hoffmann (University of Western Ontario);

Denise Koufogiannakis (University of Alberta)

Academic librarians' role as researchers is evolving and increasingly becoming a norm across Canada. In order to bring to light how librarians' own attitudes, practices, and identities contribute to research success, we distributed a national survey of research productivity to 1,683 Canadian academic librarians at 75 institutions. Notably, this study included individual and community factors that can affect research output; most of the library research to date has focused on institutional-based supports for librarian-researchers. This presentation will critically reflect on the survey results—what they reveal about librarians' research productivity and related factors—to help foster a greater understanding of ourselves as researchers, and provide insight about how we might act within institutional structures to contribute to our own and others' research success. This presentation will examine the intersection between critical inquiry and empirical study, and emphasize the complementary nature of these two approaches.